



Special Adviser on Special Adviser on working climate

Short Bio. | Prof. Purna Sen



Prof. Purna Sen is a Visiting Professor at the [Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit](#) at London Metropolitan University. For almost four decades, Prof. Sen has worked in the United Kingdom and internationally on gender equality, violence against women, sexual harassment, social development, and human rights. She has been Deputy Director of the Institute of Public Affairs at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where she also taught gender and development. She also held the positions of the Head of Human Rights for the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#) and Director for the Asia-Pacific Programme at [Amnesty International](#). She has consulted with organisations including [Article 19](#) and the British Council. In addition, she has been on the management and advisory groups of non-governmental organisations, including the Refugee Women's Resource Project and [Southall Black Sisters](#). Prof. Sen was previously a board member of the [Kaleidoscope Trust](#) (an LGBT rights charity), [RISE](#) (a domestic abuse charity), and the [Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative](#).

Prof. Sen most recently worked at [UN Women](#) (2015-2020), initially as Director of the Policy Division and latterly as the Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on addressing sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination. She has published on related topics, such as [#MeToo](#) and [sexual harassment, movement organising to end violence against women, gender and torture, crimes of 'honour', and transgressive sexualities](#) in India and Nepal.
